

Peterson, Bobbye

From: Karolin Regan <regankarolin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 10:42 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: SB1085

Judiciary Committee Members:

States that have legalized marijuana have significantly higher rates of teen use. In fact out of the 10 states with the highest rates, 8 have legalized recreational marijuana (VT, OR, ME, CO, WA, MA, AK, NV) and 2 have legalized medical marijuana (NM and RI). Compare this with the 10 states who have the lowest rates of teen marijuana use (WV, GA, OK, NJ, KS, IA, MS, ND, TX, UT) with only NJ having legalized medical marijuana and the other 9 states with no marijuana legalization. (SAMHSA.gov, National Survey on Drug Use and Health). Legalizing marijuana for adults decreases perception of harm for youth and increases access to youth. Brain development is not complete until at least the mid 20's making the teen brain more vulnerable to addiction. Please understand the risks of marijuana on the developing brain and how increased access to marijuana will affect Connecticut youth.

Sincerely,
Karolin Regan, LCSW
North Branford, CT